

**NCDOT TO HOLD A CORRIDOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE
PROPOSED WIDENING OF I-26 FROM U.S. 25 TO I-40
HENDERSON & BUNCOMBE COUNTIES**

TIP Project No. I-4400/I-4700

The [N.C. Department of Transportation](#) (NCDOT) will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 13, beginning with an open house from 4 to 6:30 p.m., followed by a formal presentation at 7 p.m. at the **Biltmore Baptist Church, 35 Clayton Road in Arden.**

The project proposes to widen approximately 22 miles of I-26 in Buncombe and Henderson Counties from U.S. 25 (Greenville Highway) in Henderson County to I-40/I-240 interchange in Buncombe County, including reconstruction of the existing pavement. The Blue Ridge Parkway structure over I-26 is proposed to be replaced as part of this project and the National Park Service-Blue Ridge Parkway is a Cooperating Agency for the project. The purpose of this project is to meet future travel demands for the I-26 corridor and to improve insufficient pavement structure and deteriorating road conditions. The Federal Highway Administration approved the environmental document; a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), in August 2016.

The purpose of this hearing is to provide information about the project and receive public input. Interested individuals may attend the pre-hearing open house at any time during the above hours. NCDOT representatives will display maps and be available to answer questions and receive comments. Written comments can be submitted at the meeting or later by **November 14, 2016.** The formal presentation at 7 pm will include an explanation of the location and design of each widening alternative, the state-federal funding relationship and right of way procedures. The presentation and comments received will be recorded and included in the alternative selection and design process.

A copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and maps displaying the alternatives are available for public review at the locations listed below.

- NCDOT Division 13 Office, 55 Orange Street, Asheville.
- NCDOT Division 14- District 1 Office, 4142 Haywood Road, Mills River.
- French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization, 339 New Leicester Highway, Suite 140, Asheville.
- National Park Service, 199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville.
- South Buncombe Library, 260 Overlook Road, Asheville.
- The document and maps are also available online at <http://www.ncdot.org/projects/i26Widening> and <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/publicmeetings/>
- Document (DEIS) only at:
 - Asheville City Hall, 70 Court Plaza.
 - Hendersonville City Hall, 145 5th Avenue East, 2nd floor.
 - Fletcher Town Hall, 300 Old Cane Creek Road.
 - Buncombe County Planning, 46 Valley Street, Asheville.
 - Henderson County Planning, 100 North King Street, Hendersonville.

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, also has the DEIS document available on their website which can be accessed at <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Permit-Program/Public-Notices/>. Contained within this website is a local public notice drafted by the Corps announcing the release of this document as well as the description of the ongoing process in choosing the LEDPA (Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative) for the subject project.

For additional information, contact Anamika Laad at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, 27699-1598, by email at alaad@ncdot.gov, by phone at (919) 707-6072, or by fax at (919) 212-5785.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this hearing. Anyone requiring special services should contact Ms. Laad as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Persons who speak Spanish and do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the hearing by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellas personas que hablan español y no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494.